eially, in the skilful dispositions which have been made with that property as one of the constituents.

Another and a cognate example Is suggested. The regular motion of the tides must have been observed from the time that men dwelt by the sea-coast., or the first adventurer committed himself to the waters of the ocean ; nor would it he difficult to determine their general periods of ebbing and flowing. But no explanation was given of the observed facts till Newton's discovery, when it was found to result from the law of gravitation, as connected with the size and distance of the moon, the magnitude of the earth, and the fluidity and specific gravity of the waters of the ocean.

Take another illustration. The regular blowing of the trade winds must have been discovered at a very early period of the history of the world. The person who was acquainted with the way in which these winds usually blow was possessed of a general fact. It is only of late years, however, that any attempt has been made to find a cause of this general result, lying, it is supposed, in the motion of the earth round its axis, as connected with the laws of the atmosphere, and the particular distribution of land and water. The air heated at the surface of the earth in the tropical regions rises to a higher level, and flows towards the poles, where it is cooled, and thence flown back to the equator, being modified in its current, however, by the motion of the earth on its axis, by the extent of the ocean in the tropics, and by its relation to the land. The person who observes the general current of the air is in possession of a generalized fact which it is most useful to know; the inquiry into the causes of that fact conducts us into another field, in which we investigate the properties of air, earth, and water in their reference to each other. In rnuch the same way we find that the Gulf-stream was observed long before any particular cause

could be assigned ;
and that the periodical rising of the waters of the Jtfile was
known and correctly registered, when there were many disputes
as to the circumstances which produce it.

Here it may bo of some importance to remark, that natural
history has very much, if not altogether, to do with the obser-
vation of the general facts or results, proceeding from the skilful
adjustments innde by the Maker of all thing*, rather than with
causes. In investigating the vegetable and animal kingdoms,
the inquirer arranges animals and plants into species and genera